

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 144832
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CPR-02 SS-15 /032 R

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NSC -C. DODSON

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O 072355Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, CS

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY AMBASSADOR
JOSE RAFAEL ECHEVERRIA

1. AFTER EXPRESSING WARM PRAISE FOR THE EXAMPLE OF
DEMOCRACY WHICH COSTA RICA GIVES TO THE WORLD, THE
PRESIDENT TOLD AMBASSADOR JOSE RAFAEL ECHEVERRIA THAT
HE HAD WRITTEN TO PRESIDENT CARAZO ABOUT SOME OF THE
MAJOR ISSUES OF INTEREST IN OUR RELATIONS INCLUDING:
THE REGULATION OF TUNA FISHING; THE U.S. INTENTION NOT
TO SEEK TO REMOVE COSTA RICAN SUGAR FROM GSP; AND U.S.
CONCERN OVER INCREASING TEXTILE EXPORTS. HE SAID HE
CONSIDERED THESE PRESIDENTIAL LETTERS TO BE AN EXCELLENT
WAY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE AND HE
WAS SURE THAT ALL OF THE ISSUES WOULD BE RESOLVED SATIS-
FACTORILY.

2. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE WARM
WELCOME GIVEN TO MRS. CARTER DURING HER RECENT VISIT
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TO COSTA RICA FOR THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT CARAZO
AND SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT THE COSTA RICAN YOUTH
SYMPHONY HAD BEEN ABLE TO COME TO WASHINGTON TO PERFORM.

3. AMBASSADOR ECHEVERRIA AGREED THAT GIVEN THE VERY
CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES
AND THE SIMILARITY OF OUR APPROACH TO PROBLEMS, HE

WAS CERTAIN THAT THE ISSUES MENTIONED BY THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE RESOLVED WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. HE SAID ONE POINT IN THE EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE THAT WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO COSTA RICA IS THAT FOR PURPOSES OF LOANS COSTA RICA IS TREATED AS A DEVELOPED COUNTRY, WHILE IN FACT IT IS STILL STRUGGLING TO DEVELOP AND DESERVES THE CONSIDERATE TREATMENT AND TERMS GIVEN THE LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. IT SHOULD NOT BE PENALIZED FOR USING ITS RESOURCES WELL.

4. THE PRESIDENT INVITED AMBASSADOR ECHEVERRIA TO ASK TO SEE HIM PERSONALLY ANY TIME THERE WAS ANY MATTER OF GREAT IMPORTANCE WHICH COULD NOT BE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

5. EARLIER, DURING THE PHOTO-TAKING, THE PRESIDENT DESCRIBED COSTA RICA AS PERHAPS THE FINEST EXAMPLE OF A FUNCTIONING DEMOCRACY AND AMBASSADOR ECHEVERRIA RESPONDED WITH WORDS OF PRAISE FOR THE U.S. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE144832
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TATODMAN:JN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780238-0844
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780684/aaaaculd.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 64cdcc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2447419
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY AMBASSADOR JOSE RAFAEL ECHEVERRIA
TAGS: PDIP, CS, US, (ECHEVERRIA, JOSE RAFAEL)
To: SAN JOSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/64cdcc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014